**Born To Die**

(Luke 23:39 KJV)

*And one of the malefactors which were hanged railed on him, saying, If thou be Christ, save thyself and us.*

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s Christians we must not accumulate amnesia that Christ died that we might live. We must acknowledge the fundamentals of our faith that he went all the way to the cross that we might have full salvation. In the validity of our salvation we claim that his Cradle was a Cold Manger, His Cross was used as a Cruel Martyrdom, and His Crown was given by the Comforting Master. So, our faith is built upon nothing less than Christ lived, bleed, died and was buried then risen in order that we might live.

In the text hanging on crosses at Jesus' right and left hand are two criminals, Greek kakourgos, “criminal, evil-doer,' one who commits gross misdeeds and serious crimes."[1] Other Gospels call them robbers, Greek lestes, "robber, highwayman, bandit"[2] (Matthew 27:38; Mark 15:27). Though they could have been common thieves, they also might have been the kinds of highwaymen that swooped down on lonely groups of travelers from Jerusalem to Jericho, stripped them of their possessions, and left them for dead, as in the case of the victim in the Good Samaritan (10:25-37). The same Greek word is used to describe them.

Ironically, bandits like these two were the treacherous terrorists of the travelers. So, often those who could travel in larger parties did in order not to become victim of these felons. And now it is these men who are dying justly for their crimes, and Jesus dying unjustly because the meanness and hatefulness of his own people.

The bible records—*"They crucified him, and the malefactors, one on the right hand, and the other on the left"* (Luke 23:33). Now notice the positioning of the men—Christ was crucified in the middle of these two **malefactors**. This position shamed Christ in that the position indicated that He was the worst of the three criminals. So, let's take a closer look at these criminals.

1. **The Criminals**

(Luke 23:39-43 KJV)

*39And one of the malefactors which were hanged railed on him, saying, If thou be Christ, save thyself and us. 40But the other answering rebuked him, saying, Dost not thou fear God, seeing thou art in the same condemnation? 41And we indeed justly; for we receive the due reward of our deeds: but this man hath done nothing amiss.42And he said unto Jesus, Lord, remember me when thou comest into thy kingdom.43And Jesus said unto him, Verily I say unto thee, Today shalt thou be with me in paradise.*

1. **The Doubtful Thief**

(Luke 23:39 KJV)

*And one of the malefactors which were hanged railed on him, saying, If thou be Christ, save thyself and us.*

I can hear this Doubtful Thief say, “We saw you give the blind man his 20/20 vision and turned his midnight into marvelous light. We saw you shut down the meat market and bakery with the feeding of the 5000. We saw you cause the hematologists doctor to go out of business when you healed that lady with an issue of blood. We saw you walk through crowds when they tried to murder you by pushing you off a cliff. So, do yourself and us a favor—save thyself and us!!!!”

**Now!!!! Notice closely the unruly conduct of the thief who's a sinner:**